The products of Aali are simple in the extreme, pots, bowls, water jars and dishes, utensils which have always been used by the people of Bahrain and which still find a ready market though the increased prosperity of the people enables them to buy cheap imported goods. It is not necessary to go to Aali itself to see the products of the potteries for at the Suq al-Araba in Manama on Wednesday mornings and at the Suq al-Khamis market on Thursday mornings the people of Aali bring their goods for sale.

At Aali the photographer will find many subjects for his camera. The potters in their workshops with the sun shining on the damp yellow clay, the symmetrical stacks of jars drying in the sun, the small boys in bright clothes running up and down the steep sides of the tumuli with objects to be baked and finally the removal of the finished articles, all these scenes provide fascinating pictures.

NURA (LIME)

Aali, as well as being the centre of the Bahrain pottery industry, is the principal place where lime is produced. Stone for the purpose is hewn from the ground in many parts of Bahrain, especially near Rifaa, and is taken in lorries or in donkey carts to Aali. Here the blocks of limestone are arranged on layers of wood, usually date palm trunks, and the wood is then fired. Men with large wooden flails stand round the piles of lime-stone and beat it into powder, chanting as they work and timing the singing to the down strokes of the threshers. When the lime becomes fine powder it is sieved and then placed in sacks. The produce of Aali commands a ready sale, for all the white-wash used in Bahrain is made there or in the neighbourhood and with the present building activities the people of the country have their work cut out to supply the local demand.

There is also in Bahrain a lime factory, owned by a member of the Ruling Family, where lime is produced by modern methods.

FISHING

Fish and fish oil are used for many purposes in Bahrain. The former is one of the staple items of food among the poorer classes, it is used for manure in gardens and for feeding cows and donkeys. Fish oil is used for oiling wooden boats to make them seaworthy. The fact that Bahrain cows are fed on fish, together with dates, date stones, lucerne and bran, leads people to expect that the local milk will taste unusual. This is not true despite the reports of journalists, who hear about the fishy diet without tasting the milk and describe its flavour as unpleasant. Milk from Bahrain cows, if they receive a balanced diet, is unusually good and has a higher average fat content than the milk of ordinary English cows. The use of fish oil on the boats along the shore has little to commend itself to visitors, the smell is extremely disagreeable and drives the people who live in houses near the sea to shut all their windows when the boats are being treated.

ZELLAQ

361 South again of Malakiya is Zellaq, the southernmost village on the
342 western Coast of Bahrain and approximately three miles west of Sakhir. A road runs from Zellaq to Awali and is much used by BAPCO employees coming to swim at the former place. The houses of Zellaq village, which are of stone, are built along the shore and many of them are large and spacious. As a result of the activities of BAPCO, Zellaq village has increased in size and prosperity and now contains a number of substantial white stone buildings which are conspicuous from a long distance across the flat and sandy plain that surrounds it.

162 The inhabitants of Zellaq are Sunni Arabs; some are from the Dawasir tribe, and many of them are dependents of the Ruling Family.
311 North of the village there are a number of large gardens, irrigated by innumerable artesian wells, which are owned by members of the Ruling Family and by their servants; these gardens form a green belt along the two miles of coast between Zellaq and Sedad.

312 The Bahrain Petroleum Company has a pump house at Zellaq which supplies Awali with much of its water and Zellaq was also once the discharging point for tankers bringing crude oil from Saudi
517 Arabia, before the submarine pipe-line was laid. Near the pumping station is the BAPCO Plage, the excellent bathing place which is much used by the employees of BAPCO, particularly in the Summer evenings.

RAS AL-BARR

529 This, the southernmost point of the Bahrain islands, is a popular
484 place for summer picnics, but the approaches to it are difficult, and
491 although never dangerous they can easily cause trouble to visitors by the softness of the sand. It is best to travel in parties with not less than two cars, so that one can come to the help of the other if necessary, and care should be taken to keep to the tracks, however faintly indicated rather than to carve out new roads in the desert. The road to Ras al-Barr from Zellaq first passes through Mutalla, the Ruler's hunting lodge, while that from Awali past the Jebel passes another hunting lodge at Rumaitha before joining the Western road at Akala. From here the road goes south, past the swamps on the coast and along the narrow strip of sand which marks the end of the island.

136 In certain seasons of the year the shores along this part of Bahrain
262 are covered with the eggs of sea-birds, and many Arab dhows anchor off the coast while the crews remove the eggs for food. If one is lucky, while driving down the coast, hare and gazelle may be seen, as well as rose-tinted flamingoes on the shore.

MUHARRAQ ISLAND

MUHARRAQ

491 The visitor from Manama approaches Muharraq by crossing the
486 1½ mile long causeway and Shaikh Hamed Bridge, completed in 1942,

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Staff :

Number of Clerks (Customs)	106	
Number of Clerks (Food Control)	10	
		116

Menials :

Customs, including Guards and Crane Crew	83	
Food Control	4	
		87

Salaries Paid :

Customs Department	Rs. 3,49,193/-	
Food Control	28,998/-	
		Rs. 3,78,191/-

Menials Wages Paid :

Customs Department	Rs. 1,25,899/-	
Food Control	7,897/-	
		Rs. 1,33,796/-

Bills of Entry. The total number of Bills of Entry dealt with was 34,728, an increase of 6,080 over 1371.

Particulars are :

Steamers	24 013
Craft	3,157
Baggage and Aircraft	7,558
Total	34,728

Shipping Bills. The total number of Shipping Bills dealt with during the year amounted to 54,441, an increase of 6,218 over 1371.

FOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT

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Holding ample stocks of rice at the beginning of the year under review, and having in mind the possibility of being able to discontinue rationing, the Government made no large scale purchases of rice and sugar in 1372. In all, only Rs. 6 lakhs were spent in the purchase of a small quantity of Persian rice.

During the year it became more and more obvious that there was plenty of rice available for export from Burma and Siam, so the Government called a meeting of leading importers, and informed them that if they were prepared to import sufficient rice for internal needs (about 85,000 bags, each of 160 lbs. per annum), the Government would cease to purchase and ration this important commodity. The Government would, however, continue to exercise a price control for at least a year. The importers agreed to do this and it was possible to cease rationing by the end of Ramadhan 2. Since that date supplies have continued to arrive regularly to importers, who have retailed same to the public at prices below the controlled rate.

The Government issued to the public 8 lbs. of rice per adult for the first nine months of the year at prices ranging from Rs. 1.12.0 to Rs. 2.4.0 per ruba, since rationing ceased the price has not exceeded Rs. 2.6.0 per ruba, and is presently being retailed at Rs. 2.4.0 per ruba of 4 lbs.

Sugar was also de-rationed at the beginning of the year, plentiful supplies being available in the local market, and retailed to the public at prices ranging from Rs. 1.10.0 to Rs. 2/- per ruba of 4 lbs. The Government stock of sugar was reserved for *barter* for livestock from Iran and dates from Basrah.

262 439 656 Over the past three years the Government has subsidised the price of meat and dates to the extent of approximately £70,000/-, sugar costing from £6 to £7 10s. has been sold to importers of livestock and dates at £3 15s. per bag.

That this policy has been wise is shown in the figures of imports of livestock during Ramadhan and Shawal 1372, as under :

Ramadhan 1372 :	Cattle	1019	head
	Sheep and Goats ..	13327	,,
Shawal, 1372	Cattle	526	,,
	Sheep and Goats ..	10914	,,

The retail prices to the public of beef, mutton, and goat meat in Bahrain are very much cheaper, by half at least, than in the neighbouring countries of Saudi Arabia and Kuweit.

Fish supplies were more plentiful than in the previous year, with prices again well below neighbouring states :

Imports of consumer goods increased during the year, and there are signs of over-stocking of certain commodities, particularly piece goods, flour, tea and motor cars.

During the year it was noticed there was a downward trend in the price of certain commodities such as timber, iron bars, windows, joists and muraba wood.

Large supplies of fresh fruits arrived in Bahrain from Lebanon. Persia, Australia, America and India, during the year with prices considerably lower than in the previous year.

Although the Government ended rationing during the year, it still maintains a price control on such essential commodities as meat, fish, rice, sugar, flour, wheat, tea and coffee.

STATE ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

(Report by Mr. D. Brammer, Assoc.I.E.E., M.A.S.E.E., State Engineer)

The Electricity Undertaking

377 655 471 **The Power Station.** A new 750 K.W. Generating Set was completed and put into commission on 10th Ramadhan, increasing the total installed capacity of the station to 3,750 K.W.

Units generated amounted to 10,58,560, an increase of 28 per cent. on the previous year and the electricity supply to the public was maintained without any major interruption.

A notable achievement was the reduction in transmission losses from 13.25 per cent. to 6.26 per cent., a saving of some 360,000 units.

Mains Department. The four skilled linesmen who were recruited in India last year were discharged in Dhul Haj, 1372. Their work had become most unsatisfactory. The work of renewal and maintenance proceeded satisfactorily but the rate of connection of new consumers is still far too low and further efforts are now being made to recruit skilled staff in order to speed up this work.

A new underground H.T. cable was laid from the Power Station to "C" Sub-station and the H.T. overhead line between Muharraq Town and the Royal Air Force Station was re-erected and its capacity doubled.

[365] The H.T. underground cable around Muharraq Town was completed giving an extra supply of 320 k.w. to districts which had never before had an electricity supply, and some two miles of L.T. distribution were erected in the town, together with street lights.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

228 Because of the vastly more economical methods involved in the production of cultured pearls, the Japanese industry threatened to flood the market, and not only brought down the cost of the pearls but also dissipated some of the glamour which has been for so long associated with them. As a result of this competition the fisheries of Bahrein began to suffer and the income of the Sheik to decline. In turn, however, royalties from oil concessions in some measure supplemented his income.[1]

FISHING

226 [262] Fishing is a major occupation of the Bahreinis and an important source of income. Cooked with dates, onions, and a small quantity of rice and barley, fish, fresh or salt, constitutes the national diet of Bahrein. Indeed, fish which have been dried in the sun form the staple food of the majority of the inhabitants of the Persian Gulf, not only of human beings but of dogs, horses, and camels. Besides the local use of fish, there is also a flourishing trade between the Gulf regions and Mauritius, India, and elsewhere in salt and dried fish, shark fins, fish scales, and fish oil.

The most important fish found in this region are:

Cuttlefish or sepia octopus (*Tankah* or *Khatak*). Eaten in large quantities by the Arabs, who consider it a great delicacy. It is also the most popular bait for hook and line fishing.

Muraena (*Metut*). Known in Oman as *Kasha.* A small fish-like eel which, dried in the sun, is used as human food, feed for horses and cattle, and as fertilizer.

Porpoise (*Dukhs* or *Dughs*). The oil is used for commercial purposes.

Rock Cod (*Hamam*). Found in shallow waters.

Sardine (*'Oom*). Caught in enormous quantities and used both for food and fertilizer.

Scad, or horse mackerel. (*Sewah*). Salted in large quantities for both home consumption and export.

Seer fish (*Kan'ad*). The *Shirmahee,* or Indian Salmon.

1. See below, p. 45x

and Pakistan. Regular air communications are maintained to Iraq and Arabia, and the airport on Muharraq Island also serves international airlines with terminals in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. Motor roads connect the towns and the villages on the different islands, and extend across causeways from Bahrain to Muharraq and Sitra. The local transport facilities are well developed, and motor bus routes link most of the population centers.

Food and Nutrition

The food habits of the diverse racial groups are varied, but serious undernutrition is seldom encountered, except among the migratory laborers from the mainland and the Baharna and Arabs in the agricultural and the fishing villages. The islands are dependent upon imports for a large proportion of their food supply. The government controls certain essential foodstuffs, as wheat, rice and sugar, and regulates prices through a system of rationing.

The diet of the average Bahraini consists of dates, bread, rice and fish, supplemented by native vegetables in season and limited amounts of meat and milk. Goats are raised in many villages, though their milk is usually scanty and poor in quality. Most of the meat is imported from Iran, and is correspondingly expensive. An assortment of fruits and vegetables is generally obtainable in Manama markets by those who are able to purchase them.

Housing

Manama is a cosmopolitan town, and the changes which have come about within the last two decades are reflected in the construction of increasing numbers of modern-type dwellings. Muharraq, in contrast, is a distinctly Arab community. Coral blocks, coral slabs and plaster are the usual building materials in the older houses, while cement is used extensively in the newer buildings. The typical Arab-style homes are built around inner courts and have utilitarian